

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146834

STADIS/////////
EMBASSY ALSO FOR USOECD, EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJECT: US RELATIONS WITH ITS COCOM PARTNERS
REF: OECD PARIS 12348 (NOTAL)
1. REFTEL (BEING REPEATED TO ALL ADDRESSEES) NOTE THAT
U.S. HAS FAILED TO TAKE TIMELY POSITIONS AT COCOM LIST
REVIEWS AND THAT PROTRACTED DELAYS IN U.S. CONSIDERATION OF
OTHER MEMBERS' EXCEPTION REQUESTS HAVE CAUSED "PROFOUND
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IRRITATION AND UNREST IN COMMITTEE." CABLE ALSO SUGGESTS
THAT THERE MAY BE AN INCREASE IN THE DIVERSION OF STRATEGIC
GOODS ON THE COCOM LIST TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND THAT
SOME COCOM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS MAY BE WINKING AT SUCH DIVER-
SIONS.

2. UNDER CURRENT COCOM UNANIMITY RULE, U.S. CAN VETO LIST

REVIEW RELAXATION PROPOSALS AND EXCEPTION CASES. BELGIANS HAVE PROPOSED REQUIREMENT OF UNANIMITY TO RETAIN AN ITEM ON THE LIST AFTER FOUR YEARS. BELGIAN DEL TOLD USDEL BELGIANS WOULD ACT UNILATERALLY ALONG THESE LINES IF US VETOED PROCEDURAL CHANGE IN COCOM. SINCE THEN BELGIANS SEEMED TO HAVE SOFTENED THEIR POSITION SOMEWHAT.

3. BRITISH TOLD US BILATERALLY THEY STRONGLY OPPOSED BELGIAN PROPOSAL TO TURN RULE OF UNANIMITY ON ITS HEAD. HOWEVER, BRITISH ARE PROPOSING TIGHTENING OF LIST REVIEW DEADLINES AND RELAXATIONS IN CRITERIA FOR ITEMS ON LIST AND FOR EXCEPTION CASES.

4. MEANWHILE US PERFORMANCE ON EXCEPTIONS CASES OF OTHER PC'S HAS WORSENERD RATHER THAN IMPROVED. AS OF JUNE 14 US WAS TECHNICALLY IN VIOLATION OF DEADLINES ON 26 CASES CAUSING INCREASED IRRITATION AT US PERFORMANCE BY OTHER PC'S. BELGIAN DEL TO COCOM STATED TO USDEL (PARIS 18186) THAT OTHER COUNTRIES SHIPPING EMBARGOED MACHINE TOOLS TO PROSCRIBED AREAS WITHOUT COCOM APPROVAL. TO DEGREE THEY MAY BE MOTIVATED BY INABILITY SECURE TIMELY US ACTION ON EXCEPTIONS REQUESTS.

5. REQUEST ADDRESSEE EMBASSIES, WITHOUT RAISING MATTER WITH HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS, TO REPORT JUDGMENTS AND ANY AVAILABLE SUPPORTING EVIDENCE ON THE FOLLOWING:
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(A) TREND IN EITHER OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED OR ILLICIT SHIPMENTS FROM HOST COUNTRY TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF COCOM LISTED ITEMS WITHOUT COCOM APPROVAL AS CALLED FOR IN CURRENT EXCEPTIONS PROCEDURES;

(B) HOST COUNTRY REACTION TO U.S. DELAYS IN TAKING POSITIONS AT COCOM LIST REVIEWS AND IN PROCESSING COCOM EXCEPTION REQUESTS. CHRISTOPHER

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